

Surrey affair

Pam 46

A SURRY AFFAIR.

IN consequence of the many misrepresentations which, I am informed, have been made in the Field respecting and subsequent to the attack made on me by Mr. Robert Allen, I considered it a duty I owe myself, that these Gentlemen be rightly informed of the rise, progress, and final end of this same bouncing *business*, with a very few observations thereon.

On Monday, the 20th of October, when Hunting in Surry, it happened, as it has unavoidably done to every one who pursues this diversion, that in a Lane I was near coming in contact with another gentleman; I believe we did not touch, and in avoiding to do so, came within about two yards of this same Mr. Allen; the latter gentleman instantly boiled up, (it is said by some that he boiled over, for he certainly foamed at the mouth,) and putting his horse on, so as to pass me, vociferated in my ear, "If he had rode against me, I'd have knocked him off his horse," or "down."

I am

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I am not certain which.—I was surprised I confess; and in a state of great uncertainty asked Mr. *Allen*, “if he meant that *at* me.” He said, “I did not speak *to* you, but I meant it *for* you:” (gallantly begun indeed!) I replied, that that observation was surely unnecessary, and would have been in quite time enough when I had done so; he said, he spoke his thoughts as he always did; “then Sir, said I, you’re very impertinent.” On this the gentleman, Mr. *Allen*, jumped off his raw boned steed, threw off his jacket, and, if I may use the pugilistic tongue, gave signs of fight, saying, “YOU ARE FOND OF A LITTLE ONE.”

—At the first moment, I confess, I was somewhat provoked, got off my horse, and coming close up with him, I felt that I could have crushed him with my hand, or pitched him over the hedge; but by his reminding me of his littleness, I was prevented, and his purpose answered; I felt also, as I hope I always shall, when “little ones” oppose me, superior to the advantage he had given me, and declined beating him, but told him, with my finger up, “you shall hear from me,” he hawled out, “Aye, and you shan’t find me FLY OFF as you have done:” to which, to prevent scolding, and to cut the matter short, I was constrained



strained to say, "you Lie." Captain *Warrington*, on the instant, said I could say no less.

If there are any who can possibly suppose I declined this mode of contest FROM FEAR, I beg to refer them to Colonel *Sandon*, who was by, some years ago, when I beat a fellow in Mr. *Allen's own way*, who would have eaten Mr. *Allen* at a meal.—I am sorry to refer, gentlemen, to a period so long back, but I really have not fought since.

In order to fulfil my PROMISE to Mr. *Allen*, of HEARING from me, I repaired to town, and immediately called on a gentleman whom I conceived, of all others, least likely to be trifled with, and perfectly equal to the business: (if any remark should here be made, it is that he has been unfortunately *too much so*;) this was the Count *Harrington*, a polite, well-bred French Nobleman, and a gentleman, who, prior to the Revolution, bore a commission in the French Army, whose forefathers went from Ireland with the pretender, and who's genealogy is traceable from the Reign of Edward the First. Had I conceived this gentleman could possibly have been objected to, either on the score of his being a foreigner, or on any other account, I would have endeavoured to have accommodated Mr. *Allen* with a tradesman, one of
our

our own stamp, but this might have been difficult, and I thought might be made an objection. My anxiety was how to find, and fix on, a man the *least* so, both as a gentleman, an officer, and one who was acquainted with his *ground*, that could, would, will, and has supported it; I thought I had found one, I think so still, and I trust every GENTLEMAN is of the same opinion.

The Count called at Mr. *Allen's* the next day, when Mr. *Allen* introduced a gentleman as his FRIEND on the occasion; the business being soon understood, an exchange of cards took place, and the gentleman said he would call on the Count at eight the next evening; though this was procrastinating another day, yet we conceived it a fair presumption that his call would be to appoint the time and place, and PREPARED accordingly; but we were mistaken; he called for a reference for the Count's character as a gentleman.—The Foreigner's pride was a little hurt; he said, "what reference can you want? do you think I am not the man? there are my papers, I will shew you the patent of my title, my genealogy and correspondence, and every thing else you can want." At this moment a knocking was heard at the street door, and presently the servant entered and said,

" a

"a gentleman wanted the Count," he said "shew him in." It was the Count's Solicitor, he (the Count) said; "I am happy you are come, you can inform this gentleman who I am," thinking that all he could possibly want to know, was that he was the person he represented himself to be, and not an impostor; and certainly for that kind of reference no man could be more proper than a professional man, who had the management of his concerns:—I say he is an Attorney of the name of *Manning*, * No. 6, Clement's Inn, whom the Count has known as his Attorney, and nothing else.—Mr. *Allen's* friend refused to hear him, and said, he must have a reference to a man of FASHION; "then Sir," said the Count, "my next reference for you, is A FEW YARDS DISTANCE;" he said that *would not do*, he must have a reference to a man of fashion. The Count then repeated, "A few yards distance for you; *do you understand me?*" the gentleman went away.—Now here is a brewer of, I know not what, if it be of TWO-PENNY, why then he is a Two-penny brewer; or it may be BROWN STOUT, or

* See Law List. The Widow of Mr. *Allen* who afterwards became the Wife of *Allen*, the Italian Singer, was formerly allied as to the Countess of *Allen* of the two, replied, the Countess.

or ENTIRE, OF ALL BUTT,* but he is a brewer; the other, meaning myself, a brewer too; a brewer of Lotion, certainly ENTIRE, nicknamed a Doctor, for possessing a recipe, but without the smallest pretensions either to the title or to the diploma generally annex thereto. Mr. Allen possesses a recipe also, and his is for making Strong Beer, but he is called a brewer.—Now this Mr. Allen, the brewer, who first strips to fight me, like one of his own draymen, then FLYS OFF, I say, to use his own words, FLYS OFF, because, forsooth, my second is not, in his estimation, a sufficient man of Fashion. I can only say, had equal readiness existed on both sides, the matter had 'ere this been settled, and if both our throats had been cut, the fashionable world, if they had thought about it, would have laid one thing and the sober part another; and neither probably much to our advantage.

In the course of the three following days, the Count called several times at the address Mr. Allen's friend had thought proper to give, in order, at my entreaty nevertheless, to give him the further reference, namely, to a man of fashion, but without being

* The Widow of Mr. *Tbrak* the Brewer and who afterwards became the Wife of *Piozzi*, the Italian Singer, was jocularly asked as to the Comparative Merits of the two, replied, she found

"The one ALL INTIRE, the other ALL BUTT."

being able to meet with him, as he neither lived or lodged where he had given his address, nor could any body in the house tell where he did live, or was to be found. This also tended to nettle the Count, that a gentleman without any address *himself*, should be so very nice about a reference; this and the circumstance of the time which had elapsed, made the thing so stale, and the Count not being immediately at my command, or interested beyond absolute propriety, and what he thought his duty to his friend as a gentleman, became weary of the business and thought proper to write Mr. A's friend the following letter:

"SIR, *Beaufort-Buildings, Oct. 24, 1800.*
 "After having repeatedly, but
 "unsuccessfully, called at the address you thought
 "proper to leave with me, and waited long at
 "home besides, I feel induced to repeat that
 "being a perfect stranger to barter for difficulties
 "in a negotiation, where readiness don't appear to
 "be equally correct on both sides, I shall decline
 "any further interference in the affair alluded to,
 "unless the first offer is closed with; and will
 "nevertheless at all times be happy and ready
 "to commune with you on this, or any other
 "subject. Per-

Permit me now to add, Sir, that I am fully satisfied, from the whole of the circumstances, that Mr. *Dickinson* is perfectly justifiable in submitting the incidents to the knowledge and consideration of the gentlemen of the field, before whom the affair originated.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your's, &c.
HARRINGTON

In consequence of the above, Mr. *Allen*'s friend called on me and said, that the Count's being a foreigner, and not giving a proper reference, and also from some enquiries he had made, he should object to him in toto, (and of course to me,) but that WHENEVER I would send him "a proper gentleman, and a native of this country, he held himself engaged to bring Mr. *Allen* out." Notwithstanding, however, this promise, of which it seems, he has repented least I should do so, he *very consistently*, the following day, (what he calls) "washing his hands of the business," sends me the following epistle.

"SIR,

Weymouth-Street, Oct. 27, 1800.

A week having now elapsed since the commencement of this affair, and no proper person having been brought forward as your friend, I think it high time for me to wash my hands of the business.

business. I must therefore decline any farther interference whatever, but sincerely wish it may be settled to your satisfaction by the gentlemen of the field, to whose consideration I understand you intend submitting it.

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient humble Servant."

It is not incumbent on me, and perhaps would not be right to publish the gentleman's name.—Mr. *Allen* may do so if he thinks proper.

It is now for the Gentlemen of the field to consider whether those objections ought, or ought not to have been made, and whether Mr. *Allen* was justified in insulting me under the presumption that I might not be able to send him any person but such as some objection might be made against.*—It is in my power to prove he said so, and that those were his sentiments.—In the last interview between his friend, and mine, and since the matter has been concluded, the Count was becoming very pointed for being objected to: when Mr. *Allen*'s friend softened him by telling him, that if it had been the Prince de Conde, he should have objected to him. What will the world say to this? Will they say that Mr. *Allen* is a proper man?

After

* See Appendix.

After the preceding narrative, I can have very little to add; but the other day dining with some friends, a party of six, at the Ordnance Coffee-house, over Westminster-bridge, where the matter was intended to be discussed, it was unanimously agreed, that I had most completely done every thing I ought to do, or could do; and that was I to carry the matter any farther I should be acting wrong: and that the idea of making a man ON PURPOSE to please these gentlemen, was ridiculous and out of the question, and that the Count ought most certainly to have been considered a proper person for the occasion, and a Gentleman. —Mr. *George Parkhurst* was of the party, a member of the Bibury Club, who this day rides a match against Sir *Wheeler Euff*, over Newmarket, voluntarily gave me permission to use his name to this effect, and as being of this opinion; as did also Mr. *Daniel Davis*, of Bloomsbury-square.

As the thing has turned out, I am exceedingly sorry (and so are a great many others) I did not bear him into a *proper* knowledge of his own "littleness," although it would disgrace me; he may command this of course, whenever he pleases.

Having

Having now described this Surry Affair to the best of my recollection and ability, I take my leave of the sorry subject. As I write this several days after the different transactions, it is impossible to say that the precise terms and expressions are letter for letter the same, but I pledge myself it is the same in effect, and that the above is a true statement.

The term (twelve months) for which I took my house of Mr. Logan, at Cheam, expiring on Friday, the last day of October, and having long ago engaged a place in a different country, I am the more desirous these facts should be made known to the Gentlemen of the Field in this way: first, because they are too long (and I am no talker,) to be explained personally; and secondly, there are many, whom I may not have another opportunity of seeing, and also that by this mode I commit myself, so that the INTIRE cannot FLY OFF into ALL BUTT.

Robt Dickinson

* * * This *Interesting* little pamphlet may be had by applying for at No. 35, Long-Acre, or it will be sent by Penny, or General Post, to any Gentleman who may wish it, until they are all gone, Five Hundred only being printed off.

30th October, 1800.

APPENDIX.

SOME little time back I conducted myself improperly towards Mr. King, a friend and neighbour of Mr. Allen's, who caused a message to be hunted to me, which I declined from a conviction in my own mind, that I had been the injured person, and for other reasons I then thought good; a little reflection (two days) convinced me to the contrary, and when I wanted to resume the matter, I found I could not, for first my cause was bad, and secondly, the time they told me was past. In my anxiety, among others, I applied to this very friend of Mr. Allen's, whose acquaintance I was then honoured with; he now, however, makes an accusation against me, that I offered him an immediate Hundred Guineas, and in case of any accident, an annuity of 500*l.* a year, and he gives this a reason for being so nice about the Count, (to do justice to whom an idea of the kind was not necessary.) I mention this because I do not want to leave any thing untold; it was offered as an indemnity against all consequences, and if there was any thing wrong in it let the world condemn me, there are many who *think otherwise*. I confess myself much indebted to Mr. Allen, for giving me an opportunity of acknowledging to Mr. King, in this public manner, that my conduct on that occasion was highly improper; I feel much satisfaction of mind in saying this, and if Mr. Allen will follow my advice and example, and I am a Judge in this case, he'll find his heart and conscience a great deal lighter.

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